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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY USSR

SECRET

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SUBJECT VOSO - "Forces of Military Communications
of the Soviet Army"

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1.

The organization is known as VOSO which stands for "VOISKA SOOBSHCHENIYA". It may also be identified by the letters VOSOSA in which case the "SA" represents "SOVETSKOI ARMII". Translated the title would be "Forces of Military Communications of the Soviet Army."

2.

[redacted]
it has existed for some time. VOSO staff sections are found at Army level and higher.

3.

[redacted]
There are schools in the Military Districts under the jurisdiction of the Rear Services Directorate of the Armed Forces which train VOSO officers. Other officers come from Railway Technical Schools and are given direct commissions and assigned to VOSO. There are very few enlisted men in the VOSO.

4.

[redacted] the VOSO officers [redacted]
[redacted] are stationed at all strategic railway junctions and in the larger railway stations throughout the Soviet Union to supervise, process, and expedite all military freight and passenger movements as far as proper documentation is concerned. They have no operational responsibilities as far as the physical facilities and operation of the trains are concerned.

5.

[redacted]
Officers wear silver shoulderboards with a thin black center strip and black piping as well as the military communications insignia. This consists of an anchor, crossed hammer and crowbar and wings over which is superimposed a red star.

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13.

[redacted] All rockets do not exist in the Soviet Army. [redacted] the Germans did use such rockets [redacted]

14.

[redacted] an AAA officer in his OCS [redacted] receives the same tactical training as officers of other arms except with concentration on AA tactics. [redacted]

15.

[redacted] an AAA NCO in his unit (regimental) school would be given general infantry tactics training. [redacted]

16.

[redacted] Fire opened and conducted in AA combat [redacted]

At the instruction of the commanding officer. In general he will open fire when an enemy plane comes within the effective range of his guns. [redacted]

18.

The chief deceptive measure employed by AA units is to cover the gun with a net which is part of the organizational equipment. Under field conditions the gun may be covered by small trees and branches collected locally. [redacted]

19.

[redacted] training [redacted] with various caliber AA guns [redacted] is generally done on an artillery range using propeller-driven medium bombers. Since fire is by batteries [redacted] the gun is aimed by tracking the plane. The ammunition is armor-piercing incendiary and tracer; generally each 10th shell will be a tracer shell. [redacted]

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20.

In the tactical zone in a troop column, some of the AA MG's will be placed in the advance guard. The majority of the AA guns will be somewhere near the headquarters units in the column and another group of AA MG's or AA guns will be placed between the main body of the column and the rear guard, if there is a rear guard. In the absence of a rear guard, the AA elements then will be at the end of the column. On reaching the area of the concentration, the immediate task of the AA elements is to get themselves into the position so as to cover the other elements while taking their place in the concentration area. When troop columns are moving along military highways, which are under the control of regularly assigned traffic regulating troop units, the AA elements travel with the column inasmuch as AA installations are normally located already along such

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